

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Czechoslovak Defense Measures

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4. As a defense against hostile tanks, all open clearings in border areas contiguous to Bavaria are to be blocked with iron tank obstacles called "Spanish riders". These are constructed of three pieces of L-shaped iron, each piece being approximately two meters long, 10 cm wide and weighing 80 kilograms, the obstacles are stored at Tseruby (Neumark - NSO/U 89) and Myrsko (Neuern - NSO/U 99). Some have been distributed to localities near Svata Katerina (St. Katherina - NSO/U 88).

2. [redacted] dense woods will be left standing to serve as natural tank obstacles. In wood clearings, trenches will be cut two meters deep and four meters wide. Road blocks, made of tree trunks and stones, are to be constructed across all roads leading from the border. A space three meters wide is to be left in all the road blocks which can be closed in an emergency, by tree trunks held in reserve for that purpose.

3. Border guards from SNB units and Finance guards, who have been assisted by the Army, are to be replaced by new militia-men between 10-15 October 1949 taken from the ranks of the Workers Militia. The new men will be trained for six months by the SNB and then undergo political indoctrination in an unlocated school in Slovakia before taking over their new posts

4 Each border post is to be manned by 30 men, to be increased at a later date, and will be equipped with three machine guns. A field telephone, a public telephone, and a shortwave radio will connect each post with rear command posts. When the change-over is made, none of the old guards is to see any of the new men.

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5. On 1 October 1949 the organization of a civilian defense corps was begun. All politically reliable persons are to be registered for membership and their measurements are to be taken for uniforms. Stocks of equipment are being stored in SNB stations to be issued in an emergency to the civilian defense corps. The mission of this defense corps will be to help defend the country against attacks by a foreign enemy. It is not to help in the quelling of rebellions, a task assigned to the People's Militia.

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